

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEGA
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9/16/07**Inventor(s):** Brian WYLD**Serial No.:** Not Yet Assigned**Examiner:**

To Be Determined

Filed: Herewith**Group Art Unit:**

Unknown

Title: EXTERNAL FAULT TOLERANT SHARED MEMORY UNIT IN A
DISTRIBUTED MULTIPROCESSING SYSTEM**BOX PATENT APPLICATION**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1-8, and insert therefor the following claims:

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9. A distributed multiprocessing system, comprising:
- at least two hosts connected to a network, wherein each host has a processing unit and internal memory accessed by the processing unit; and,
 - a fault tolerant external memory unit, wherein each host further comprises an access device connected to the external memory unit, and the access device provides the processing unit of the host with a transparent access to the external memory unit.
10. The system of claim 9, wherein the processing unit has an access time to the external memory unit less than three orders of magnitude larger than an access time to the internal memory.
11. The system of claim 9, wherein the processing unit has an access time to the external memory unit at least two orders of magnitude smaller than an access time to another host through the network.
12. The system of claim 9, wherein the access device in a host is connected to a bus, and access time to the external memory takes place in less than one cycle of the bus.
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